

Application No. 09/681,611  
Attorney Docket No. 15-XZ-5728  
Amendment dated August 11, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2004

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] At step 208, the processing circuit 110 identifies the minimum gradient at every pixel location of the characteristic mask containing the first identifier (e.g. 1). In a preferred embodiment, cancellation parameters from the LUT 122 and the high energy level image 116 and the low energy level image 118 are utilized in Equation 1 to obtain the decomposed image  $I(x,y)$ . Continuing with the above example, the cancellation range  $w$ -range used in Equation 1 will be 0.35 to 0.55. Equation 1 is calculated at each pixel location corresponding to the pixel locations of the characteristic mask 124 containing the first identifier (e.g. 1). In one preferred embodiment, the first value of cancellation parameter  $w$  used in Equation 1 is 0.55. In an alternative embodiment, the first value of cancellation parameter  $w$  used in Equation 1 is 0.35.